

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 EB-07 OMB-01

TRSE-00 FEAE-00 ERDA-05 OES-06 /123 W

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R 240950Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6054

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 4030

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, CE, KU, KN, KS, UN

SUBJ: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: NAM SUMMIT

REF: KUWAIT 4009

1. ABDALLAH BISHARA, GOK PERMREP AT UN NEW YORK AND MEMBER GOK DELEGATION TO COLOMBO NAC, DESCRIBED COLOMBO EXPERIENCE TO EMBOFFS AT AMBASSADOR'S DINNER AUGUST 23. SPECIFIC KUWAITI POSITIONS AND ACTIVITIES DURING NAC WERE NOT DISCUSSED BUT BISHARA'S COMMENTS ON ATMOSPHERE AND MEANING OF NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE MAY BE OF INTEREST.

2. BISHARA REMARKED THAT MOST NA MEMBERS (WITH YUGOSLAVIA AS NOTABLE EXCEPTION) DO NOT CARE AT ALL ABOUT NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT PER SE. THEY SIMPLY SEE MOVEMENT AS ANOTHER FORUM AND VEHICLE FOR ADVANCING THEIR INDIVIDUAL INTERESTS. THUS VERY FEW WILL OBJECT TO PROPOSED NAC STATEMENTS ON SUBJECTS NOT OF DIRECT INTEREST TO THEIR GOVERNMENT, AND WILL GO ALL OUT TO HAVE CONFERENCE ENDORSE THEIR OWN HOBBY-HORSES. MOST NAM MEMBERS, HE SAID, ATTACH LITTLE IMPORTANCE TO PUBLISHED TEXTS OF RESOLUTIONS.

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3. AT COLOMBO THIS FACET OF NON-ALIGNED ACTIVITY WAS PARTICULARLY

BLANTANTLY EMPHASIZED BY FACT THAT MEMBERS FOR THE MOST PART HAD NO IDEA OF CONTENTS OF RESOLUTIONS AND DECLARATIONS WHICH CHAIRMAN WAS DECLARING ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS, SOME TEXTS, IN FACT, NOT HAVING BEEN ISSUED BEFORE DELEGATIONS DEPARTED COLOMBO. BISHARA MENTIONED THAT GOK DELEGATION HAD LEFT BEFORE SEEING KOREAN RESOLUTION NOR HAD HE BEEN AWARE OF OIL EMBARGO PROPOSED FOR FRANCE AND SOUTH AFRICA. IN FACT BISHARA SEEMED UNAWARE THAT KUWAIT HAD BEEN ON DRAFTING COMMITTEE FOR KOREA (IF INDEED REPORT CARRIED WIRELESS FILE (REFTEL) IS ACCURATE).

4. TURE IMPORTANCE OF NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE, SAID BISHARA, IS TWOFOLD. FIRST, THERE IS SYMBOLIC VALUE IN THE FACT OF SO MANY AND SO DIFFERENT GOVERNMENTS BEING ABLE TO MEET; AND, SECOND, MUCH USEFUL BILATERAL BUSINESS GETS DONE IN THE CORRIDORS.

5. ASKED WHETHER IT NOT TRUE THAT MEMBERS WHO ALLOWED CONSENSUS RESOLUTIONS TO GO UNCHALLENGED WOULD TEND TO BE BOUND BY THEIR INACTION WHEN SAME RESOLUTIONS PUT FORWARD FOR GENERAL APPROVAL OR IMPLEMENTATION AT UNGA, BISHARA GAVE STANDARD DENIAL THAT CONSENSUS PROCEDURE BINDS MEMBERS IN THIS WAY.

6. COMMENT: BISHARA'S FRANK CYNICISM IS SOMEWHAT REFRESHING. HOWEVER IT SEEMS TO US HE OVERLOOKS, WHETHER CONSCIOUSLY OR NOT IS UNCLEAR, GENUINELY HARMFUL IMPACT OF SWEEPING AND IRRESPONSIBLE CONFERENCE DECLARATIONS. BRITISH EMBOFF INTENDS IN NEXT FEW DAYS TO DEBRIEF MORE SYSTEMATICALLY ANOTHER MEMBER OF GOK DELEGATION, ESPECIALLY WITH RESPECT FONMIN'S APPARENT FAILURE TO MAKE PROMISED, "EVEN-HANDED" MENTION OF KOREA IN HIS SUMMIT ADDRESS. PERHAPS THIS WILL SHED LIGHT ON REPORTED KUWAITI ROLE ON DRAFTING COMMITTEE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, NONALIGNED NATIONS MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976KUWAIT04030
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760323-0054
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760826/aaaaawal.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 KUWAIT 4009
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <24 SEP 2004 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: NAM SUMMIT
TAGS: PFOR, PORC, CE, KU, KN, KS, UN, (BISHARA, ABDULLAH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006